

KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Faculty Jazz Parliament

presents

*The Music Of
Art Blakey and The Jazz Messengers*



Monday, November 28, 2016 at 8 pm
Dr. Bobbie Bailey & Family Performance Center, Morgan Hall
Forty-ninth Concert of the 2016-17 Concert Season

program

Program to be chosen from the following:

Blues March | Benny Golson

Come Rain or Come Shine | Harold Arlen

Dat Dere | Bobby Timmons

Ugetsu | Cedar Walton

Ala Mode | Curtis Fuller

Are You Real | Benny Golson

Invitation | Kaper / Washington

Moanin' | Bobby Timmons

Along Came Betty | Benny Golson

Yama | Lee Morgan

Pensativa | Clare Fischer

jazz parliament personnel

Sam Skelton, reeds

Luke Weathington, reeds

Rob Opitz, trumpet

Wes Funderburk, trombone

Tyrone Jackson, piano

Trey Wright, guitar

Marc Miller, bass

Justin Chesarek, drums

program notes

Art Blakey, born on October 11, 1919, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, studied piano before taking up the drums and performing with the likes of Mary Lou Williams and Billy Eckstine. He formed the Jazz Messengers



with Horace Silver in the mid-1950s and went on to release acclaimed albums like *Moanin'* and *Ugetsu*. A hard bop icon who was a mentor to many jazz greats, Blakey died on October 16, 1990.

His mother died soon after his birth with his father having previously left the clan. Blakey was thus raised with his siblings by a family friend who became a surrogate mother. As a child, he took piano lessons teaching himself as well, while adopting adult

responsibilities early on - working at a club as a musician, getting married and having children during his early teens.

He was forced by a club manager to take up playing the drums, and by 1942 was playing with Mary Lou Williams's band before moving on to the orchestra of Fletcher Henderson. He joined Billy Eckstine's group mid-decade and stayed with the bandleader until 1947.

Blakey helmed a rehearsal band known as the 17 Messengers for a time before travelling to Africa at the end of the 1940s, studying Islam and taking the name Abdullah Ibn Buhaina. After his return to the states, he formed a co-op quintet, the Jazz Messengers with pianist Horace Silver in the mid-1950s; additional original members were Hank Mobley on sax, Kenny Dorham on trumpet, and Doug Watson on bass.

After Silver left the group in 1956, Blakey took over leadership, simultaneously fostering a relationship with the Blue Note label that yielded a rich array of recordings over several years, such as *At the Jazz Corner of the World* series, *Buhaina's Delight* (1962) and *Free for All* (1964). And albums for the Riverside label during this era included *Caravan* (1962) and *Ugetsu* (1963), recorded at Birdland.

An icon of hard bop jazz, Blakey was known for having a thrilling, propulsive playing style that highlighted his skill and pushed accompanying musicians to shine. Over the decades, the Messengers became known for having a changing, evolving membership with a varied roster size; as the band played on, often newer musicians entered the group to learn and hone their skills under Blakey's guidance.

Some of the artists who'd performed with Blakey included Benny Golson, Donald Byrd, Lee Morgan, Jymie Merritt, Wayne Shorter, Joanne Brackeen, Cedar Walton, Charles Fambrough, Terence Blanchard, Lonnie Plaxico and Branford and Wynton Marsalis, among a host of others.

Blakey also worked outside of the Messengers, touring with the likes of Dizzy Gillespie and Thelonious Monk and performing at venerable musical events like the Newport Jazz Festival.

Among a host of awards and honors, Blakey earned an instrumental Grammy with the Messengers for 1984 album *New York Scene*. The classic single "Moanin'" was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame in 1998 while the highly acclaimed album of the same name, reportedly a favorite of Blakey's, was inducted three years later.

Blakey died in New York City on October 16, 1990, at the age of 71 from lung cancer. He was survived by his many children. He left behind scores of albums and a technique embodied by the legion of artists whom he mentored.

<http://www.biography.com/people/art-blakey-9214586>

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Sam Skelton, *Jazz Ensembles*
Rob Opitz, *Jazz Trumpet*
Trey Wright, *Jazz Guitar, Jazz Combos*

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KSU Faculty Jazz Parliament
Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra and Chorus
KSU Faculty Chamber Players
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KSU Community and Alumni Choir

about the school of music



Welcome to the Bailey Performance Center. We are thrilled that you are here!

The School of Music at Kennesaw State University is an exciting place to live, work and learn. Housed in the College of the Arts, the School is infused with masterfully skilled and dedicated performing teachers who care deeply about their profession, our programs, our community, and every student involved in music and the arts. This Performance Center is the jewel in our crown! We are so excited about the musical and

artistic events that happen here, and we are excited that you are here with us to enjoy them! The School of Music is busy preparing our students to be productive artists. We want them to be accomplished and creative leaders of the arts world of tomorrow, professionals who are diversely trained and well-practiced. Diverse in their backgrounds, our students hail from many of the leading musical arts and honors organizations from across the Southeast, and as a School of Music, we are dedicated to the purpose of furthering the arts and cultural offerings to our region and beyond.


Please take a look through our program book and notice those who advertise with us. They support us financially and help make this performance possible. I know that they will appreciate your patronage and support! Also, please note our *"Name a Seat Campaign"* listed within this program book. In preparation of our tenth anniversary, we have established a goal of naming 100 seats. Perhaps there is someone you would like to see honored in this way!


I look forward to a long and rewarding relationship with you. With your continued support of music and the arts, there is nothing that we cannot accomplish together!





Stephen W. Plate, DMA
Director, KSU School of Music

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<http://community.kennesaw.edu/GiveToMusic>